

Amendment/Response

Reply to Final Office Action of March 9, 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A reticle SMIF pod, comprising:

a dome having a plurality of spring-loaded latchkeys;

a cassette having a plurality of primary engagement locations thereon wherein said latchkeys ~~are intended to~~ engage in said primary engagement locations to seal a base of said cassette to said dome; and

a plurality of secondary engagement locations positioned in said cassette above corresponding to and disposed between said plurality of primary engagement locations and said base of said cassette, such that when a single one of said plurality of latchkeys fails to engage in a corresponding one of said primary engagement locations, said single one of said plurality of latchkeys engages in a corresponding one of said secondary engagement locations to prevent said cassette from completely disengaging from said dome falling should said plurality of latchkeys fail to engage in said primary engagement locations.

2. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement locations corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary engagement locations.

3. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement locations are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary engagement locations.

4. (currently amended) A reticle SMIF pod, comprising:

a dome;

a cassette;

said dome having a plurality of dome engagement means for engaging said dome with said cassette;

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said cassette having a plurality of primary engagement means thereon wherein said dome engagement means ~~are intended to engage with said primary engagement means to seal a base of~~ said cassette to said dome; and

a plurality of secondary engagement means positioned in said cassette corresponding to and disposed between ~~above~~ said plurality of primary engagement means and said base of said cassette, such that when a single one of said plurality of dome engagement means fails to engage in a corresponding one of said primary engagement means, said single one of said plurality of dome engagement means engages in a corresponding one of said secondary engagement means to prevent said cassette from completely disengaging from said dome ~~falling should said plurality of dome engagement means fail to engage with said primary engagement means.~~

5. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement means corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary engagement means.

6. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement means are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary engagement means.

7. (currently amended) In a reticle SMIF pod which includes a dome with a plurality of spring-loaded latchkeys for engaging said dome with a cassette, wherein said cassette includes a plurality of primary latchkey receivers which are intended to engage with said plurality of latchkeys, a method for creating a backup fastening between said dome and said cassette should said plurality of latchkeys not properly engage with said primary latchkey receivers, comprising the step of providing a plurality of secondary latchkey receivers positioned in said cassette corresponding to and disposed between ~~above~~ said plurality of primary latchkey receivers and a base of said cassette, such that when a single one of said plurality of latchkeys fails to engage in a corresponding one of said primary latchkey receivers, said single one of said plurality of latchkeys engages in a corresponding one of said secondary latchkey receivers to prevent said cassette from completely disengaging from said dome ~~should said plurality of latchkeys fail to engage with said primary latchkey receivers.~~

8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of secondary latchkey receivers corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary latchkey receivers.

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9. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of secondary latchkey receivers are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary latchkey receivers.